

Abilene Weekly Reflector.

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ABOUT THE KANSAS WHEAT OUTLOOK.

BAD REPORTS COME FROM SOUTHERN KANSAS.

Most of the Soft Wheat Is Killed According to Authorities—Dickinson Conditions As Seen by Two Experts Who Differ Widely.

W. B. Giles drove about 40 miles in the country north of town yesterday inspecting the wheat. He says: "The fields look all right; only saw one that was badly injured. Soft wheat is about gone but the acreage is so small as not to count. Hard wheat is all right and will make a good crop with rain in a week or so. No dust is blowing from the fields yet."

Taylor Miller of Salina, says: "The present coming crop conditions are not very flattering. We haven't had any rain of any consequence for the last six months and the 10 degrees below zero weather in December killed some of the wheat. We had some good snows but the wind blew it off in spots and where the wheat was thus exposed it has been injured and killed. The present condition of the plant is not encouraging, the soil being so dry that farmers claim that the upland wheat is damaged in some places very badly. I have been in Kansas 33 years, and about every three or four years we have a partial wheat failure, and Kansas is like a good many things, she will have her turns, and I predict that Kansas won't raise 60,000,000 bushels of wheat this year."

C. Wood Davis, of Clearwater, Sedgewick county, has been gathering reports for Beerbohm's of London, of whom he is the western representative, and he says: "In this, Sedgewick, county and in Sumner and Harper counties nearly all the early sown wheat and at least half the plants on the late sown fields have been killed outright, while there is not a sign left of the soft wheat sown, either early or late, except the remains of the dead plants. On our own fields 99 per cent of the early sown has been destroyed and from 50 to 75 per cent of the plants on the late sown ones. This is the condition of most—nearly all—the fields of the three counties named, of Oklahoma, and, so far as I can learn of the fields of Harvey, McPherson, Rice, Reno and Barton counties as well. North of the Union Pacific reports are better because there was more snow and late autumn rains. Some good reports are made because people take here and there a green leaf for evidence of vitality of the original good stand, when in fact they don't know that a healthy plant has a clean, white stem between the surface and the roots; and don't know, because they would not know if they examined, that all this wheat has a brown stem below the surface, has been frozen and will smell as bad after warm weather really comes as did Lazarus, and there is no one to perform the service that was once done for that individual.

"It is my opinion—not a prediction, mind you—that based on present indications Kansas will not raise 50 per cent, perhaps not 40 per cent as much wheat as in 1901."

Secretary Coburn holds that it is yet too early to be sure of the wheat's condition. A number of telegrams were received here today from the east asking about wheat, some coming from New England.

Commissioner S. H. McCullough, one of the county's leading wheat raisers, said today: "The wheat is in bad condition. The soft wheat is

gone. The hard wheat with good rains soon will make two thirds of a crop."

HAS BAD DREAMS.

Democrat Continues to Worry When There's No Trouble.

The Democrat has another worry-piece of two columns telling what the editor thinks, surmises, guesses and mostly dreams about the fact that there was an error in transcribing Supt. Dyer's correct records so that for a few days Dickinson county was credited with less pupils than it has. As a matter of fact before the Democrat was issued the check to make the correction had been sent and the full quota had been received. The Democrat abuses Mr. Dyer and then also abuses State Supt. Nelson—it expects to catch 'em going and coming. The simple facts are these:

Supt. Dyer sent down his report correctly prepared.

Clerks in the state superintendent's office made an error in copying.

Attention was called to it by Mr. Dyer and correction was made at once and full apportionment for Dickinson forwarded.

Furthermore, it did not make any difference who made the error for correction is provided for and easily made. In a letter State Superintendent Nelson says: "Mistakes are always corrected and it is not only just and right, but legal. The statement that there is no legal way to correct these errors is absurd. The total amount in the annual school fund is seldom ever all distributed. The apportionment is always made to include an even number of cents. For instance, the present apportionment of thirty-nine cents per pupil did not use up all of the fund in the annual school fund, while forty cents would have exceeded the amount in the fund. The surplus is always carried over to the next apportionment and is available for the correction of any errors."

The Democrat roars because Mr. Dyer's report was not all completed in December. His safe was buried under several tons of brick and he asked and received permission from the state superintendent to defer its completion until courthouse repairs were ended.

All the hullabaloo has been actually about nothing. If the REFLECTOR made it a business to whack Sheriff Baker, Judge Flack or Treasurer Matson because of their politics every time a trifling error occurred in their offices or at the Topeka end of a report's filing it would be considered to be in mighty small business. How about the Democrat?

New Trial for Jessie Morrison.

Special to the Reflector

TOPEKA, March 8.—The Kansas supreme court today granted a new trial to Jessie Morrison, who was convicted at Eldorado for murdering Clara Castle. The grant is because of an error in empanelling jury.

City Banquet Postponed.

Owing to the absence from the city of several who would attend and other conflicting engagements the city fathers' banquet to have been held Wednesday evening is postponed until further notice.

McSparrin-Edmundson.

Eli A. Edmundson and Lucy McSparrin were married by Judge Flack Sunday evening.

Must Notify the Trustee.

Judge Moore has just decided an interesting case in Geary county, Gross vs. Jefferson township in that county. This case was appealed from a justice's court. The suit was brought by Clayton Gross for damages sustained by one of his livery rigs which a customer was driving in Jefferson township. A bad road is the alleged cause of the damage. The case was tried before Justice Grover in Milford several weeks ago and the plaintiff was allowed damages to the amount of about \$90. Judge Moore sustained a demurrer, on the ground that the township trustee had not been notified of the road's bad condition.



MISS JENNIE PARENT, OF CASE'S DEPARTMENT STORE.

COUNTY CONVENTION MARCH 22.

Republicans Arrange for Selection of Delegates.

The Republican central committee met today and issued the call for a county convention to be held in Abilene Saturday, March 22 at 1 p. m. Primaries will be held Thursday, March 20 and the delegates will number 145.

At the convention will be selected 15 delegates to the Fifth district congressional convention at Clay Center March 25 and 15 delegates to the State Republican convention at Wichita May 28.

The convention to nominate county officers will not be held until summer.

The committeemen attending the meeting report a hearty enthusiasm throughout the county and prospects for a clean Republican sweep.

The Republican banquet will be held on the evening of convention day and Gov. Stanley will make the principal address.

The caucuses will be held from 6 to 8 o'clock in the country precincts and at 7:30 in the towns.

How Hicks Guesses.

The chances are good for continued and general storms over the 10th and into the storm period extending from March 11th to the 16th.

The students of theory and forecasts will remember that the earth passes an electric and magnetic crisis each year, on and about March 11th. It will also be remembered that the new and full moons in March are always on or very close to the celestial equator, thus forming close conjunctions with earth and sun. When these conjunctions fall within or near the annual perturbation central on the 11th, storms, ocean tides and electric phenomena are almost certain to reach a high maximum.

A reactionary storm period will center on and about the 19th and 20th, at which time change to warmer, falling barometer and wide areas of more rain and snow will pass eastward across the country. The storm period in which Boreas and the equinoctial powers will make one of their final and worst clashes is central on the 24th, covering the 21st to 26th.

Seats for Republican Banquet.

About one-third of the plates for the Republican banquet March 22, have been taken by Republicans from outside the city. Indications are that there will be a rush for the seats from this time. Abileneites can now get tickets by applying to C. A. Case, secretary, or H. E. Ellison, president. The principal speaker will be Gov. Stanley.

Hard Colds

Hard colds nearly always lead to something serious.

They run into chronic bronchitis, pneumonia, consumption. Doctors know this.

That's why they so generally approve of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. They tell us they cannot prescribe anything that cures coughs so quickly.

"Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cured my daughter of a very bad cough after we had tried about everything else without relief."

—E. B. Davis, Providence, R. I. 25c. 50c. \$1.00. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

Dr. Price's Baking Powder

Cream

Superlative in strength and purity

Improves the flavor and adds to the healthfulness of the food.

PRICE BAKING POWDER CO., CHICAGO.

NOTE.—There are imitation baking powders sold cheap by many grocers. They are made from alum, a poisonous drug, which renders the food injurious to health.

A BRITISH DISASTER

Gen. Methuen and Four Guns Captured by the Boers.

MUCH EXCITEMENT CAUSED IN LONDON

The Newspapers Bought Up and Bitter Remarks Made by Leaders on the Government's Declaration That the War in South Africa Was Over.

London, March 11.—It was announced yesterday that Gen. Lord Methuen and four guns had been captured by the Boers commanded by Gen. Delarey. The news came like a thunderbolt to London. The extra editions of the evening papers giving an account of the disaster were eagerly bought up and their readers hurried through the streets with anxious faces, and bitter remarks were passed on the subject of the government's declaration that the war in South Africa was over. The news came too late to affect business on the stock exchange, but excited curb dealings quickly followed the closing, in which South Africans slumped heavily.

The news caused excitement in the mine market. Throgmorton street was thronged with South African operators early, inquiring for details of the British defeat and watching the effect of the announcement. Shares were offered freely at first, but by six o'clock the excitement had abated and the curb tone hardened.

The news was received in the house of commons amid great excitement. The reading of Lord Kitchener's telegram by the war secretary, Mr. Broderick, was listened to in deep silence which was broken by loud Irish cheers. Instantly there were cries of "Shame!" "shame!" from the government benches. Then the Irish members seemed to think better of their outbreak and suddenly subsided. The subsequent eulogistic references to Gen. Methuen were received with cheers.

In brief, Lord Kitchener announced that when Gen. Methuen was captured, wounded, with four guns, three British officers and 38 men were killed and five officers and 72 men were wounded. In addition one officer and 200 men were reported missing.

Lord Roberts, the commander-in-chief, who announced the British disaster in the house of lords, said Gen. Methuen for over two years had carried on his work with zeal, intelligence and great perseverance, adding that the general was beloved of his men and that no work was too dangerous or difficult for them or Gen. Methuen. The commander-in-chief was sure the house was deeply grieved at what had occurred. He would ask their lordships to concur with him in his sympathy for the gallant officer in his present unfortunate position and defer adverse criticism till they had definite information as to what was directly responsible. From Delarey's conduct throughout the war they could all be assured that Gen. Methuen would be taken good care of.

The feeling of depression in the lobbies of the house of commons over the news of the disaster in South Africa was very marked. The service members of the house expressed the opinion that it will necessitate sending fresh troops to the front, while the belief was widely expressed that the Boers will not fail to take advantage of Gen. Methuen's predicament.

nence to hold him as a hostage for the safety of Commandant Kritzinger and other Boer leaders now in the hands of the British.

SECRETARY LONG RESIGNS.

The Head of the Navy Department to Re-enter the Practice of Law—Representative Moody Chosen to Succeed Him.

Washington, March 11.—Yesterday Secretary Long submitted his resignation from the cabinet in a letter to the president, it being accepted by the president. Representative William Henry Moody, of the Sixth congressional district of Massachusetts, has been selected by the president as Mr. Long's successor in the navy department. Recently Mr. Long has been in Massachusetts making arrangements with his old legal connections to re-enter the practice of law.

The news that Representative Moody, of Massachusetts, had been offered and had accepted the navy portfolio reached the capitol shortly after noon and Mr. Moody, who was on the floor of the house, was showered with hearty congratulations. As a member of the appropriations committee he has led several fights on the floor, notably in connection with the contest between the navy and geodetic survey over jurisdiction of deep sea surveys. He secured the adoption of a resolution on an appropriation bill raising Dewey to the rank of admiral.

THE EIGHT-HOUR BILL.

Labor Interests to Be Heard by the House Committee Next Thursday in Support of the Measure.

Washington, March 7.—During consideration of the eight-hour bill before the house committee on labor yesterday representatives of several large concerns doing work for the government proposed that the bureau of labor pass on the question whether the large castings, such as those for armor, could be cast in eight-hour shifts. President Gompers, of the Federation of Labor, emphatically protested against this proposition as one for delay. In this connection, he said, he had been approached and advised to desist from further urging the eight-hour measure and said the witnesses were ready to proceed in answering the contention as to eight-hour shifts. No action was taken upon the proposition to refer to the bureau of labor and the labor interests will be heard in support of the bill next Thursday.

The National Allied Party.

Omaha, Neb., March 7.—Dr. Joseph E. Chambers, of St. Louis, and J. H. Cook, of Carthage, Mo., who are at the head of the national allied party, recently organized, arrived in this city yesterday, where they came to organize their party in Nebraska. A mass meeting will be held at Washington hall this afternoon for that purpose. Secretary Cook says he expects Nebraska to support the new party vigorously, because of the large number of voters of the faith that goes to make up the elements of the allied party. He said that besides organizing the party the meeting tonight would also select delegates to the Louisville convention, which is to be held in April.

...the In Building started in Oronoma city. Oklahoma City, Ok., March 11.—Fifteen hundred workmen in the building trades went on a strike here yesterday because the building contractors refused to employ union labor unless the builders' council would agree to dissolve their order. Both sides are strongly organized.

CUBAN RECIPROCITY.

Many Conferences by Congressmen Over the Anticipated Struggle.

MR. LONG WHIPPING UP SUPPORTERS

The Opposition to the House Ways and Means Committee's Plan Claim a Decisive Majority—A Belief That Action Will Be Shipped This Session.

Washington, March 10.—Sunday brought something of a lull in the agitation over Cuban reciprocity, although the elements for and against concessions continued to prosecute their plans in anticipation of the struggle to-morrow night, when the fourth conference of house republicans will be held. During the day there were no formal meetings, but the leaders on each side held many informal conferences. The tactical plans of the ways and means committee are largely committed to Representative Long, of Kansas, who was busy prosecuting his canvass. Mr. Long was in consultation during the day with Speaker Henderson, who is taking an active interest in having the ways and means committee supported on the ground that the opposition is one which to some extent affects the regular organization of the house. The various consultations, however, did not lead to any new developments in the situation. Those who oppose the ways and means committee continued to assert that they had a list-phoning 108 republican members with some 25 more doubtful. If this claim could be made good it would be decisive in the coming conference; but Mr. Payne and his associates, while giving no figures, do not concede the strength claimed by the opposition. When seen last night Mr. Payne declined to say what the committee plans are or to make any claims, but said he was entirely satisfied with the situation. One of the leaders of the opposition element said that the main effort on Tuesday night would be to defer all action, at least for this session of congress.

STANLEY'S STATEMENT.

The Kansas Governor Says the Southerner State Will Not Be Outdone by the Bear State at the World's Fair.

St. Louis, March 10.—Gov. Stanley and the Kansas commission to the world's fair were guests Saturday at a luncheon in the Mercantile club. Gov. Stanley announced that Kansas would make a display which might be counted on to cost not less than \$200,000. He said that there was intense rivalry between Kansas and her sister states of the great southwest to outdo one another at the world's fair and predicted that when the final test came at the opening of the exposition Kansas would not be found wanting nor behind her neighboring commonwealths of Texas and Arkansas. The appropriation, announced the governor, would be doubled at the next session of the legislature, if the temper of the Kansas people was an indication of what might be expected from his state.

Kansas has already passed a bill calling for the expenditure of \$75,000 at the fair, but the impetus given to the competition of the states by the news that Arkansas will erect a building to cost not less than \$200,000 has provoked the Texas and Kansas commissions to renewed exertions in order to outdo the Bear state.

WHY COUGH

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup cures Cough or Cold at once. Conquers Croup, Whooping-Cough and Measle-Cough without fail. All mothers praise it. Doctors prescribe it for Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Grippe, Pneumonia and Consumption. Quick, sure results. Price, 25 cents. Refuse the dealer's substitute.

Dr. Bull's COUGH SYRUP

Always cures when others fail. Dr. Bull's Pills cure Constipation, 25 pills per box.